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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 1. SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

OUR PAPER.

In the preliminary advance number of the *The Woman's Dreadnought*, we announced that it would be a free weekly newspaper with a circulation of 20,000 copies. We have now decided to charge a halfpenny for the paper, because we are sure that its supporters will be glad to feel that they are paying towards the upkeep of *The Dreadnought*, and because by this means we shall be able to circulate it throughout the newsagents as well as by our own efforts. At the same time members of the East London Federation will be asked to distribute a substantial number of free copies each week. The circulation of *The Dreadnought* will never be allowed to fall below 20,000 copies and we know that very soon it will advance far beyond that number.

GREAT PROCESSION

TO EVENING SERVICE
AT
WESTMINSTER ABBEY,
SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND,

Form up—
28 Ford Road, Bow, at 3.45 p.m.
March at 4.15 p.m.
VIA
Roman Road, Green Street, Cambridge Road, Aldgate, Leadenhall Street, Cornhill, Cannon Street, Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, Strand, and Trafalgar Square.

PROCESSION WILL HALT AT
Gardiners' Corner, Bank, Ludgate Circus, and Trafalgar Square, in order that those who cannot march the whole distance may join at these points.

After the service is over the Procession will re-form, and march VIA Whitehall and Northumberland Avenue to Charing Cross (Embankment Station).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, March 23rd—8 p.m., Bow, Priscilla Road—Miss Coombs.

Tuesday, 24th..8 p.m., Bow, Out and Out Mission Hall, Tredegar Rd.—Miss Toson
Poplar..East India Dock Gates—Miss Richmond.
Canning Town, Freemason's Road.

Wednesday, 25th..8 p.m., Poplar, 319 East India Dock Road—Miss Thompson,
Bow, Crowder's Hall, 173 Bow Road..Miss Haarbleicher.
Bromley, Chrisp Street, and Charles Street—Miss Holmes.

Thursday, 26th..3 p.m., Poplar, 319 East India Dock Road, Women's Meeting—Mrs. Gow.
Bow, 3 p.m., 28 Ford Road, Women's Meeting.
Limehouse, Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Road—Miss Haarbleicher.
8 p.m., Canning Town, 124 Barking Road—Miss F. Canning.
Poplar, outside Council Offices, Woodstock Road.

Friday, 27th..8 p.m., Bow, Ford Road.
3 p.m., Poplar, Piggott Street.
Canning Town, Beckton Road.

Sunday, 29th..3 p.m., Victoria Park—Mrs. Hughes.

WHOM DOST THOU WORSHIP?

"Leave this chanting and singing and telling of beads! Whom dost thou worship in this lonely dark corner of a temple with doors all shut? Open thine eyes and see thy God is not before thee!

"He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and where the pathmaker is breaking stones. He is with them in sun and in shower, and His garment is covered with dust. Put off thy holy mantle and even like Him come down on the dusty soil!

"Deliverance? Where is this deliverance to be found? Our Master Himself has joyfully taken upon him the bonds of creation; He is bound with us all for ever.

"Come out of thy meditations and leave aside thy flowers and incense! What harm is there if thy clothes become tattered and stained? Meet Him and stand by Him in toil and in sweat of thy brow."

From the writings of Rabindranath Tagore, a great Indian poet and philosopher.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE MEETING.

EAST LONDON FIGHTS FOR WOMEN'S VOTES.

I GOT to Trafalgar Square before the procession arrived, and went into a shop to wait for it.

When the procession reached the shop only the rear band was playing, so that I did not hear it coming in good time. I hurried out just as the last of the people had passed the shop. I was half way across the pavement when a big burly detective grabbed me by the arm, and at the same moment shouted "seize this woman!" At once I was surrounded and held on all sides by policemen and detectives, who were almost lining the Strand and the edges of Trafalgar Square. At the same moment several mounted men rode up. I called "friends," and the people at the end of the procession heard me and began running back towards me.

The detectives turned and rushed me away towards Charing Cross, a crowd of them clutching me, and hanging on to each other with uniformed police on horse and foot around us. I resisted as hard as I could but what was I against so many?

"Sylvia" recovering after Prison.

"Get her on a 'bus! Get her on a 'bus!" detectives shouted. A motor 'bus was just starting; they tried to drag me on, but the conductor stretched out his arms to bar the way, and pushed them back. "No, no, you sha'n't get her on here," he said, "I wo'n't help you to take her!" The 'bus was going fast now, and we dropped behind.

An inspector hailed an empty standing taxi, but some of the men from the end of the procession, who had rushed on ahead, persuaded him to drive away.

I was dragged along till we came to another taxi. There was a fight around it, but what happened I do not know; for I was pushed down out of sight, half on the ground, half on the step of the cab, and at last hauled in head foremost. Not many of our friends can have reached us. It was all so quickly done; but I am told that one woman fought very hard to keep the cab from starting, and was very brutally used.

With me in the cab were four huge detectives. The one who had first seized me said: "This will have saved a great deal of trouble—a great deal of trouble and broken heads."

I said, "It is not all over yet."

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

TO LET.—Furnished room, quiet house, Suffragettes, near station, 1d. from City address: Hope, 321 Roman Road, Bow.

WHAT MRS. CAVENDISH BENTINCK SAW.

I did not know there were as many police in the world as were assembled last Sunday for the East London Fedderation Meeting in Trafalgar Square. To talk of conscription is nonsense. I feel convinced that every able-bodied man is now in the police force!

Happening on a face not altogether unfamiliar to me, a civilian whose form looked strong, I not unnaturally took up my stand near him, and where he went I followed. This proved diverting because a tall police inspector with a bull neck was writing little slips of paper, and my friend had to give them to other civilians who were waiting with bicycles on the outskirts of the crowd, and who sped off with these mysterious messages.

My silent friend ungratefully endeavoured to elude me in various ways, but every attempt ended in failure. When little bedraggled detachments of the East End Procession arrived, this man would press through the crowd and scan each figure attentively. So did I. For about an hour this went on; then there was a rush down Northumberland Avenue. I saw a tiny speck of gaily-coloured bunting floating like some uncanny cork in a black ocean of police. My friend stood near the tall inspector, and they appeared to view the scene with satisfaction, one of them saying something about going to the river and have done with it! Before me a woman lay on the ground, and was being helped up; but whether she had been knocked down by the army of law and order, or merely stumbled in running, I cannot say.

Presently, to my surprise, the whole mass of blackness surged towards me. There was no speck of colour now. Nothing but this tidal wave of black, from which a shriek or two arose. Then I saw a very small workingwoman, I should say an elderly and feeble woman, being torn to pieces near to me. Her hat was on one side—so was she—about twenty men must have been pulling her one way whilst as many were pulling the other way, and the whole black tidal wave seething in the rear. Judging that these madmen were tearing her asunder, I remonstrated and tried to get in front of them. My friend seemed about to grab at her also instead of joining his remonstrances to mine, so I caught hold of his arm, and he hit me off and flung me on to the tidal wave. Another woman seemed to me being torn to shreds, and as she screamed I suppose she was under the same impression!

The police raised their arms and did not seem to know on whose heads they let them fall. I understood why we pay for such heavy helmets! It is a case of "Heaven save us from our friends!" Close to me was a very young man who was being knocked about quite savagely. His face was strangely white and oddly near the ground. I am under the impression there were others. I got battered from one side to another, and then spied my friend again. As soon as he saw me he pushed me as hard as could, and ordered me to "get on to the pavement."

As he was walking, or rather running, with an inspector, I asked in my sweetest voice, "Are you a policeman?" "No, I am not!" he roared. "Then why do you order me about?" I queried in dulcet tones. "Why do you follow me about?" he shouted, looking furious. "Because you seem to know your way about so well, and appear so nice and strong. That is why," said I, most affably. "Here, here!" said he to the inspector, and then the later and another constable lifted my friend on to a 'bus without its

(continued on page 2)

Bow West Ward League.

Will all members please rally to meeting of above League Tuesday, March 24th next at 8 p.m., at 101 St. Stephen's Road, Bow, to discuss ways and means for smashing the enemy in the coming General Election. Work will win Bow & Bromley and we've got to win this time.

All who wish to secure

Votes for Women

should at once join the

Labour Representation Committee

Send your name to

J. H. BANKS,

6 Campbell Road, Bow.

Nearly 90 Years' Reputation.

Neave's Food

ensures healthy happy children, stamina to invalids, and robust old age, by its bone and body-building qualities. Specially recommended by "The Lancet" "British Medical Journal," Sir Chas. A. Cameron, C.B., M.D., Medical Officer of Health and Analyst for Dublin, &c., and other famous Authorities.

Used in Rearing the Royal Children of Russia, and thousands of all classes testify to its excellent virtues. For instance: Mrs. KAIN, 6 Rockingham Road, Doncaster, writes:—

"DOCTOR ADVISED ME TO GIVE MY TWIN BOYS OF SIX WEEKS' OLD YOUR 'NEAVE'S FOOD.' I have never lost a night's rest, and they have cut their teeth without any trouble. Your Food also does away with all need of medicine and castor oil." 22nd August, 1912.

"Hints about Baby" sent free. Sample for 2d. postage, mentioning "Woman's Dreadnought," to JOSIAH R. NEAVE & CO., Fordingbridge, England.

stopping, and he squirrelled up to the top, casting a terrified glance to see if I were following.

Whitehall was full of mounted police, and more seemed to pour out of Whitehall Court. Then they also produced a fire engine, with what object I cannot imagine, and the mounted police lined up and pushed the whole crowd back into the Square. Hundreds of infuriated women turned round now and again to hurl imprecation at them. One told me a boy had been arrested for saying "Cossacks." Certainly, Cossacks are said to be a rough lot, but what makes these disturbances in London so terrible is just the knowledge that our men are *not* Cossacks, but by nature, kindly, good-hearted fellows, who work themselves up into what nurses call "a dreadful state" precisely because they know they have got to do things they loathe doing. They become somewhat hysterical, and from hysteria to brutality is but a short step. I am sorry for them, but still sorrier for those they handle when in such a condition. Surely the authorities might remind them that a worn-out, under-sized East End woman, weighing eight stone at most, can easily be taken off to the police station by one of these fourteen-stone giants without any unnecessary display of brute force. Why must a whole pack of wolves precipitate themselves upon one defenceless lamb? And if it is that they are afraid the lamb may be rescued, why are the police employed to do that which the general public (who pay them after all!) disapproves of?

How much simpler to give women the vote!

Yours, etc.,

RUTH C. BENTINCK.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.
Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
CENTRAL OFFICE
321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.
Telephone EAST 422.
No. 1. Saturday, March 21st, 1914.

Bravely and Willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

HOW SHALL WE GET THE VOTE?

Votes ought to have been granted to women at least a generation ago. The reform is long overdue. In 1870, Jacob Bright's Women's Enfranchisement Bill passed its Second Reading by a majority of thirty three votes, but the then Liberal Government sent an urgent whip to their followers to defeat the Bill in the Committee stage.

Ever since then Votes for Women have been held back by a handful of men at the head of either the Liberal or Conservative Party — whichever happened to be in power at the time. Why have the party leaders blocked the way to Votes for Women? Partly because every British Government has hitherto made it a rule to *talk* as much as possible, and to *do* as little as it can; but chiefly because the leaders of each Party have always feared that the woman's vote might not be beneficial to their own Party game. The Liberals have said: "The women will vote Tory." But if the Conservatives had thought that, they would certainly have made voters of the women long ago.

But whatever they may say in excuse, the deep root reason why the politicians have stubbornly set themselves against women's suffrage is that they know that the coming women voters will insist upon widespread social reform.

The Party politicians are afraid of women.

As a matter of fact, in those states and countries where women vote, they have been less influenced than men on the lines of the bad old Party system, and have concentrated their attention very largely on securing improved social conditions and better laws for women and children, and especially for widows and orphans, who stand in greatest need of adequate protection by the State.

But how are we to get votes for women? We have waited fifty years, we will not wait a hundred! How are we to force that stubborn handful of men in the Cabinet to give way? One of the things most necessary to success in this, as in every other cause, is a big determined popular movement. It is not merely a movement capable of holding big meetings that is wanted. Big meetings have been held for years without moving the Government by a hair's breadth. A movement is needed with a spirit of enterprise and fight.

It must be a movement of large masses of the common people, wherein each one will do what she or he can to protest against the present exclusion of women from any part or lot in the Government of the country, and the making of the conditions under which they live.

In protesting against the outlawry of women, all must do as much as their own conscience tell them that they can do.

To hoot a Cabinet Minister, and smash up his meeting for him, even if one cannot find it in one's heart, or courage, to stone him; to fight to shield a prisoner under the cruel Cat and Mouse Act, even if at last she should be taken; to join a raid on Downing Street, though the attempt should fail; all these things in their own way will help the cause because they show popular discontent.

In these things the people of East London have led the way, and pointed it out to people of other parts. We must do more of these things, for Cabinet Ministers hate them, and who can say when the last straw will come and they give in?

The Trafalgar Square Protest, on March 8th, was a good beginning for the season. We must keep it up. We must show that time cannot wear away our zeal and our determination; and we must become stronger and more determined until we are able to make the Government afraid. We must, each one of us, strive and strive and do our individual part to make our movement grow.

Here, in East London, each one of us must grow more and more impatient. Indeed, there is most grievous need for change! Nowhere else are women so horribly sweated as amongst us, and the underpayment of women's labour lowers the status of all.

TO QUICKEN THE PACE.

What can we do to quicken the pace? We can make ourselves more formidable. What do the workers do when they want their wages raised? Do they merely talk amongst themselves or hold meetings? Do they merely send petitions to their employers? No! They go on strike. We can do that too! And we can strike against whatever thing we please. We might decide to strike against paying our taxes, but here in London, where we are mostly poor, but few of us pay direct taxes, and so, for us, that kind of strike will not do. We might, as woman, decide to strike against doing our daily work in the home—how often that has been suggested—but that would injure the children, so that too will not do. Moreover, the Government would not care for that kind of strike in the East End, for it would only make poor homes more uncomfortable, and every Government that ever has been in this country hitherto has been most bent on safeguarding, not the homes of the poor, but the interests of the rich.

Therefore, our strike for the vote must be directed against something which will embarrass the rich, of whom the Governments, in both Houses and of both Parties, are so largely compounded, and from whom they draw their immense Party funds.

The only thing against which the mass of women can strike effectively is the payment of their rent. The "No Vote, no Rent" strike is the working woman's most powerful weapon. In using this weapon she needs, if she is married, her husband's co-operation. This co-operation should surely be given gladly for the mass of women, whether wage-earners themselves or not, are always ready to back up the strikes of men. The women in the jam, biscuit, tin and other East London factories, came out in a body to help the transport workers when they were on strike a while ago. The Dublin women came out from Jacob's factory to help the Irish transport workers, and in every strike that ever was, the mothers who usually stop at home, have been ready to go out charing or washing, or to take in homework, to make ends meet

Surely every right thinking man wants his wife, his mother, and his sisters to have a vote, and will be willing to back them up when the women go on strike.

WHEN WILL "NO VOTE, NO RENT" BEGIN?

What will be the best time to begin the "No Vote No Rent" strike? If, as it is rumoured, there is to be a general election in May or June, it will be best to start as soon as the election is over, in order that the new Government that will be formed may at once be faced with the "No Vote No Rent" deadlock, and will realise that the wisest course is to put votes for women in the King's Speech right away. It is quite certain that with a strong "No Vote No Rent" strike in progress no anti-suffrage Prime Minister will be allowed to take office. Mr. Asquith will either have to get converted, or be thrown overboard, and the Government will speedily seek to quell the trouble by introducing a Votes for Women Bill.

If the Government intends to hang on until 1915, however, we must strive to wrench Votes for Women from them this very year. In that case the strike ought to begin as soon as we are ready. In any case we must be prepared for the right moment when it comes. We do not mean to begin to strike until we have a nucleus of several thousand people pledged to join us. A thousand families in Leeds have struck because their rents were raised. No one has yet been evicted and the strike has continued since January. When the "No Vote No Rent" strike begins we must have, not one thousand persons in scattered districts, as they are in Leeds, but several thousands living not far apart. Then we shall be very safe against eviction. At the same time we shall collect a good bank balance in case of any instances of individual victimisation, just as, since last autumn, we have taken the precaution of establishing a prisoners' families' aid fund for the dependents of those who may be arrested in fighting for the cause.

We pledge ourselves that we will not start the strike until a large number of strikers are ready. It is time that we began to take the names of those who will join the "No Vote No Rent" strike. On the day that it is announced those who will join should fill in this form and bring, or send, it to the Central Office of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at 321, Roman Road, Bow, E. The names and addresses will be kept absolutely secret.

I PROMISE TO JOIN THE NO VOTE NO RENT STRIKE.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

State Yes or No to the following:—

I occupy an entire house.

I am the householder, but let part of the house unfurnished.

I rent unfurnished rooms from my landlord or landlady.

I occupy part of a house which is let off in separate flats.

LODGERS,
CONVERT the LANDLADY
that she may STRIKE with the rest.

STAND TOGETHER!

In fighting for Women's freedom, as for every great cause, there is one important lesson that we, who are in the movement, must assuredly strive to bear constantly in mind. That is to love and trust our fellow human beings, to try to be ever ready to think the best of them and to open-heartedly welcome outsiders to our ranks. Only if we are zealous to make comrades of all around us can our movement spread as it should.

It is when the spirit of affectionate comradeship and sympathetic tolerance dies out of any organisation that it becomes arid and stereotyped and that its usefulness ceases to extend. But those of us who can learn the lesson will find that in practicing it for our cause, we have also made better and happier human beings of ourselves.

On Wednesday night, March 11th, I was in my cell weary and despondent, wondering, wondering, wondering what we should do next to get the vote. Wondering and wondering how to increase the power and numbers of our own Federation of the Suffragettes and the general popular movement for the vote amongst both men and women in East London. Wondering, hoping, and perhaps a little doubting and fearing too. Suddenly, I heard a band playing and knew that friends from East London were close by. I heard your voices and knew that your message was "no surrender—pull together—we shall win."

And the moral is that we must never cease to work and strive together, and that we must believe, believe with every fibre of our being, that victory is near—So we shall win!

TO THE ABBEY!

This Sunday, March 22nd, we intend to march together to the Evening Service at Westminster Abbey, to pray for Votes for Women and the Saving of the Hunger Strikers. I have written to the Dean of Westminster to tell him that we are coming, and to ask him to adapt the service to the occasion.

The Procession will form up at 28, Ford Road, Bow, at 3.45 p.m., and start at 4.15. I shall be with you in the Procession, though I cannot possibly be strong enough to walk by then. This day is especially appropriate for our purpose, as it is "Mothering Sunday." The old custom of visiting one's mother and making her a present on this Sunday is now being revived by people of all sorts and conditions. It is therefore well that we should choose this day for offering up our prayers, that the mothers of the nation should have an equal share with the fathers in the dignity and responsibility of law making, and of caring for the nation's children.

Let us assemble in large numbers to pray to God for our great Cause, and to show the religious people of power and influence in Westminster how earnest is our desire and determination to win Votes for Women this year.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WOMEN'S STRIKE AT YARMOUTH.

A thousand workers employed at the silk mills of Messrs. Grout & Company, Great Yarmouth; the majority of them are women and girls who are now on strike.

A month ago the women, who had hitherto been unorganised, agitated for an increase in their payment from 4½d. to 6½d. a pound of silk handled. They were successful, but, even after the increase, could earn no more than 11s. a week, though they toiled without losing a minute. In the old days few of them had earned more than 7s. 3d.

The present strike is caused by the fact that the firm have announced their intention of reverting to the old 4½d. rate. The girls have now joined the Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union and are putting up a strong fight.

SUFFRAGETTE FIRES.

A timber yard, valued at £3,000, belonging to the Imperial Tobacco Company, at Ashton Gate, stacks of corn and hay, and farm buildings, valued at £3,000, the property of the Nottingham Corporation, Robertsland House, Ayrshire, the Olton Lawn Tennis Club's Pavilion, near Birmingham, valued at £300, Coombe Hill House, Bruton, Somerset, a large hay-rick, valued at £200, at Limby, near Nottingham, were burnt down this week.

Copies of *The Suffragette* and other literature were found near the scene of each fire.

EAST LONDON PRISONERS AT BOW STREET.

On Monday, March 9th, the ten persons arrested in Trafalgar Square the previous day appeared at Bow Street.

Various weapons and life preservers of knotted rope weighted with lead, india rubber tyreing, and other instruments, were shown by the police as having been used by the crowd.

Mr. Thomas Pollard was charged with kicking a policeman's horse. The magistrate looked very stern and said "it is not a pleasant way of spending Sunday afternoon—half of Scotland Yard had turned out to keep a lot of desperadoes in order—you can pay 10s. or go to prison for seven days."

Miss Mary Jones, an elderly charwoman from Bow, was asked why she had joined the procession. She said "because I had a reason for it we are trying to do all we can to make things good for the poorer class." She was discharged.

Miss MacKay was charged with trying to strike various police officers and with having handed a knotted rope to a woman who was already in custody. She said she went to the assistance of Miss Paterson, whom 10 policemen were illtreating and that she carried the life preserver in order to protect herself and others from police violence She was ordered to pay a fine of 20s. or go to prison for fourteen days.

Mr. Teague was charged with having "sprung on the back of a policeman like a cat," he said that he intended to take the women's side in the fight for the sake of his own sisters.

In the case of Miss Paterson, the Poplar organiser of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, it was stated that she was running down Northumberland Avenue waving a flag and followed by a large crowd, and that on being stopped by a policeman she took a knotted rope from her pocket and struck out right and left. Then followed an argument between

YOU HAVE ROUSED A FIRE IN THE EAST END.

Miss Paterson asked leave to call Miss MacKay as a witness, but this the magistrate refused to allow, saying in irate tones, and pointing to the life preservers, "what about those things in your possession, do you think it is a trifle?" At this point Mrs. Parsons of Canning Town asked to be a witness to the fact that Miss Paterson had been illtreated by the police, but the magistrate said "she does not allege it, and is none the worse for it," 40s. fine. Miss Paterson said "I did not allege anything about police treatment simply because it was not what I was here for. I could easily enough have said what they did, and I could point out that it took ten men and eight horses to arrest me. But I was not here to make complaints against the police, that is for others. You incite to breach of the peace when you give seven years to Julia Decies, and also when you drag people like Sylvia Pankhurst back again to prison. You have roused a fire in the East End and ten men and eight horses won't be enough next time!!"

THE POLICE ARE COWARDS AND COSSACKS.

Mr. Joseph Struth, a seaman, was charged with having gone up to a mounted constable in a threatening attitude, also with striking the horse and calling to everybody as he was being taken to the police station, "the police are cowards and cossacks." Mr. Struth said "the horse ran me into the crowd and knocked me down. I got up and swore at him, and so would anyone knocked down by a horse." He was fined 20s. or 14 days.

Mr. Edward Deane was charged with obstructing a police constable and calling him a cowardly dog. His reply was that the police had knocked a woman down. He was fined 10s. or seven days.

Mr. Everitt was charged with having held on to a woman who was being arrested. He complained that the policeman had deliberately knocked a woman down and had also struck him several blows. The magistrate ordered him to be bound over to keep the peace for ten months, but when Mr. Everitt refused and asked what was the alternative, he answered in worried tones: "I don't know." Mr. Everitt was therefore released.

Miss Mary Rogers was charged with striking a policeman on the head with the handle of her umbrella. She was fined 20s. or fourteen days.

Miss Verity Oates was also fined 20s. or fourteen days for knocking off a policeman's helmet.

THE SMASHING OF McKENNA'S WINDOW.

On Monday, March 9th, Suffragettes from East London smashed two windows in the house of Mr. McKenna, one in the Colonial Office, and two in the Home Office, as a protest against the refusal of Votes to Women and the Cat and Mouse Act.

Early, in the small hours of the following Saturday, six women of the W.S.P.U. drove up to McKenna's in a motor, and with hammers and life preservers smashed fifteen panes of glass in the door and three in the windows.

The police rushed up and arrested the women; Margaret Hopkins, Emily Charlton, Heron Raye, Ethel Cox, May Stevens and "Boadicea," who were sentenced at Westminster Police Court to two month's hard labour. They all adopted the hunger strike, and have since been released on license.

MISS SMYTH'S TRIAL.

On Thursday, March 12th, Miss Nora Smyth appeared at Old Street Police Court to answer to the charge of "causing actual bodily harm" to police constable King. It will be remembered that Miss Smyth was drilling some recruits to the People's Army in Ford Road on February 27th when, just as the drill was finished and Miss Smyth gave the order to disband, she was seized by several police constables and taken to the police station. The case has since been adjourned twice, on the ground that the police constable was not well enough to attend.

When the case was proceded with on March 12th, police constable King stated that Miss Smyth had rushed through the crowd at him and had then stopped and deliberately kicked him on the right ankle. The constable also said that she had struck two police constables with a drumstick, and had said, "I can't help it, the crowd will attack us."

Everyone, who was in Ford Road, knows that the crowd watching the drill were all good humoured and friendly, and had cheered to the echo the speeches by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and others from the window.

After the case was brought into court the first time, Miss Smyth applied to be allowed to send her own doctor to see the police constable as she knew she had not kicked him, and, even if she had done so deliberately, she knew that it woud be impossible for her to have injured him seriously through his thick boots, as she was wearing only light shoes.

There had been no disturbance, or any ground for excitement at the time, the police alone had hustled Miss Smyth at the moment of arresting her.

Miss Smyth's application to have the police constable examined by an impartial doctor was refused until after the case had come into court on Thursday, 5th March, nearly a week after the arrest. It was then too late for the examination to be of any use, for there was nothing to prove the injury had not been caused subsequently. On that occasion it was stated that the man was suffering from periostitis. An eminent physician informs us that this disease is syphilitic and is frequntly of a chronic nature.

Taking all the circumstances into account, Miss Smyth told the Magistrate that, as she had not been allowed to provide herself with evidence as to whether the man was actually injured, she would neither call witnesses on her own behalf, nor cross examine those put forward by the prosecution, nor would she go into the witness box.

From the dock she denied that she had kicked or struck this policeman or any other person, but she would take no further part in the case. The magistrate told her that he wanted to do justice but that she refused to help him. He would, therefore, fine her £15 and 2 guineas, or one month's imprisonment in the second division.

The magistrate tried hard to induce Miss Smyth to pay the fine, but she refused to do so. He therefore gave her fourteen days in which to think the matter over, and he sent the Clerk of the Court to her to try and persuade her to alter her decision. The clerk told her that if she had gone into the witness box the magistrate would probably have let her off. This shows quite clearly that he did not believe her guilty.

Sample Weapons captured by Police.

Special this week!
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Cough Mixture and Lung Tonic
THE CASH DRUG STORES,
224 ROMAN ROAD, LONDON, E.

FREE SPEECH IN BOW, BROMLEY & POPLAR.

The Poplar Borough Council are finding that the refusal of the Halls is not a matter which they can consider as settled and done with and off their minds. At the last Council meeting they considered it prudent to receive a deputation, organised by the Daily Herald League, in which the following societies were represented: Daily Herald League, British Socialist Party, Dockers' Union, Gasworkers' Union, and East London Federation of the Suffragettes. Before admitting the deputation, the Council in its wisdom voted that the resolution to which most exception has been taken, the one demanding a guarantee that no "militancy" shall be preached, and that no one wanted by the police shall speak, should not be brought up, and that speakers should confine their remarks to the question of the scale of charges now enforced! All the same the bigger question kept cropping up in an astonishing way, and practically monopolized the proceedings.

In the subsequent discussion the Rev. J. M. Maillard urged that the halls should be free to women to discuss questions affecting their own welfare. Alderman Bussey objected that this was appealing to the sentimental side. He said that though all agreed that there were many terrible grievances which wanted mending, these must be mended in other ways than over the question of the letting of public halls.

The usual wail went up that this matter was allowed to waste the time of the Council, but evidently the Mayor did not consider that the said time was very valuable; for when Mr. George Lansbury made a disrespectful allusion to Liberal and Tory Party funds, and refused to be called to order, he suddenly adjourned the meeting and home they went at 8.45.

The matter will be brought up again then, at the next Council meeting at 7 o'clock on Thursday, March 26th, and it is hoped that all friends of fair play and free speech will be present in the public gallery to hear how it is decided.

THE STRIKE AT MORTON'S.

Three hundred of the girls at Messrs. C. & E. Morton's pickle, jam, sweet tin-making and tea packing factory in Millwall came out on strike on Monday, and by Wednesday all the employees, including 1,000 women and girls and 600 men, had struck. The strike had also spread to the firm's Cubitt Town factory. The trouble has arisen in this way: Messrs. Morton used to employ men to work certain machines. These men were replaced by girls of 18 years and upwards, who could earn on an average about 10s. a week. Now four girls between 14 and 15 have been taken on to replace four older girls, at a wage of 7s. These young girls are employed in the press room, one of them being put to work a machine that cuts tin plates in halves. The women demand, not that the young girls be dismissed, but that they be given work more suited to their age.

The women strikers told a *Woman's Dreadnought* representative who interviewed them, that in the Lozenge Room, the women used to be paid 5½d. a gross, but an engineer slightly altered the machinery, and now the work has been cut down to 2½d. a gross.

One woman of 65 years said that she had worked there 44 years and that she is still only getting from 8s. to 12s. a week, and is refused a pension.

The women in the tea-packing department earn still lower wages, although their work is exceedingly dangerous on account of the tea dust which they inhale.

The women and girls say they have come out to secure better conditions, both in regard to wages and health requirements for themselves, and also to stop the introduction of Child Labour. They also object to the tyrannical treatment of one of the foremen. 'There are too many bosses' they say. They are proposing to have a deputation to the firm's Head Office which is in Leadenhall Street.

Enthusiastic meetings are being held outside the factory, and a great demonstration was held in Poplar Town Hall on Tuesday night. Miss Mary McArthur, Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., Mr. John Scurr and Mr. Harry Gosling are busy helping the strikers. The Federation of Women Workers has undertaken to give £50 to the strike funds. Miss Lawrence will contribute £20 a week till the dispute is settled. A further £200 has been subscribed, but it will take £250 a week to give even 5s. a week out-of-work pay to every woman.

Morton's have been interviewed both by the Mayor of Poplar and a deputation from the strikers. The firm has so far refused all concessions, and the women stand firm.

A sinister aspect of the situation is that the confectionery trade is about to be put under the Trade Board Act. The provisions of this act only apply to women over 18 years, so that by the introduction of young girls the employers will be able to avoid paying the minimum wage rates.

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Hon. Secretary:
Mr. J. BONARIUS,
89 Wyke Road, Monier Road, Bow.

SCOTTISH PEOPLE FIGHT THE CAT & MOUSE ACT.

SCENES AT MRS. PANKHURST'S ARREST AT GLASGOW.

A fierce fight followed the arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst whilst she was addressing a meeting in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on Monday night. The police drawing their batons stormed the stage, and the women supporters of the militant leader closed round her and defended her with similar weapons. The hall was densely crowded. With dramatic suddenness Mrs. Pankhurst appeared at the back of the hall, and walk to the front of the platform amid great cheering.

She said that few people in the audience, or in the country, knew how much of the nation's money was being spent to silence women, but the wit and ingenuity of women had overcome the power and money of the British Government. The greatest task in the woman's movement was to prove that they were human beings like men. She had only been speaking a few moments when several men stewards rushed into the body of the hall exclaiming "Police."

Simultaneously a side door crashed open, and in rushed dozens of policemen. The hall was in a ferment, and the scene baffled description. Mrs. Pankhurst was surrounded by her bodyguard, other women stepped forward and presented stout white wood truncheons. The police endeavoured to rush the platform, only to find that the flowers edging it concealed barbed wire, and as they tried to scale it buckets of water and flower pots were thrown at them. For a time there was a perfect fusilade of broken chairs, smashed flower pots, tumblers, etc., while the police drew their batons and blows were rained right and left. One woman was bleeding badly from a baton wound on the temple. Two lady doctors were in attendance, and many women were to be seen carrying water in their hats to restore the injured persons. The police, who had thus far been kept at bay, eventually surrounded Mrs. Pankhurst, one reporter asserting that she received a blow which felled her, and when arrested was lying down holding her head. In spite of the efforts of her supporters she was dragged to the door and pushed into a motor in a fainting state. Scores of constables and a number of detectives had been employed to effect this one arrest, and as hundreds of people surrounded the motor, mounted police rushed forward with drawn batons and forced the crowd to the rear.

Within the hall confusion still prevailed, and a woman was able to keep back the police for a long while by firing off blank cartridges.

After a quarter of an hour, during which Mrs. Pankhurst was conveyed to the police station, order was restored, and the meeting continued until ten o'clock.

Afterwards a great crowd carrying banners marched to the Central Police-station, where 100 police were kept in reserve with a body of mounted men. An attempt was made to storm the police station, when large bodies of police poured out of the building to scatter the seething mass of people, and wild scenes again prevailed.

Mrs. Pankhurst was subsequently visited in the police court cells by Dr. Mabel Jones of Glasgow, to whom she complained of the great roughness used in her arrest. The chain round her neck had been broken, and her ribs hurt. She had been pushed and knocked along the passage from the hall by excited detectives each claiming the credit of having got her. They flung her down on the floor of the cab while they sat on the seats, and as she lay there they hit her on the back and jibed at her. She was only allowed to see Dr. Jones in the presence of a woman turnkey or the casualty surgeon, and under these conditions refused medical examination. Fearing further demonstrations from the citizens of Glasgow the police effected Mrs. Pankhurst's removal to London by strategy. She was carried on a stretcher to a motor which was driven to a wayside Lanarkshire station, where the express for Euston was stopped, and she was placed in the train. In London the train was stopped at two stations before Euston, and she was placed in a motor and driven to Holloway Prison where a great body of police were waiting to receive her.

EYE WITNESSES' PROTEST AT HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Tuesday, March 17th, a deputation of six eye-witnesses to the brutality of the police at Mrs. Pankhurst's arrest in Glasgow, including Mr. Leonard Gow, Mr. William Thompson (Hucheson Girls' Grammar School), Rev. David Watson (St. Oswald's), Ex-Bailie Alston, Mr. Ernest Johnson and Mr. Charles Scott, J.P., travelled up to the House of Commons to express their indignation. They were received by Mr. Scott Dickson, K.C., the Member for Glasgow Central, and other Scottish Members of Parliament. They were advised to make their complaint to the Glasgow Town Council.

McKENNA CONFUTED.

MR. MCKENNA said in the House of Commons, on Tuesday, March 17th, that when Mrs. Pankhurst was arrested in Glasgow, "she was not roughly handled, and when she refused to walk she was carefully carried." Members of Parliament laughed.

The following letter has been sent to the Press by the doctors who examined Mrs. Pankhurst on her release:—

"Having seen the statement of Mr. McKenna in the House of Commons last night, as to the treatment of Mrs. Pankhurst by the police at the time of her arrest, we desire to state that we examined Mrs. Pankhurst six days later, after her release from prison. We then found numerous bruises over her ribs and on her limbs, both ankles were cut, and the left one was swollen and discoloured.

These injuries must have been sustained either at the time of her arrest, or while she was being conveyed to the police station, held down on the floor of the cab among the feet of the six policemen who occupied the seats.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)—
FLORA MURRAY, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
HARRY SCHUTZE, M.D., B.S."

PRISON NEWS.

MISS ETHEL MOORHEAD who complained that, whilst she was being forcibly fed in Carlton Prison, her ear was burnt with hot irons, and that she was left at the mercy of young students from the Asylum, and kept on the operating table for the whole of one day, is now gravely ill. Dr. G. R. Cadell reports that she is suffering from pneumonia, as a result of the injection of some foreign substance into the lungs. This, of course, as the doctor says, is some of the food that was poured into her during forcible feeding. The doctor further reports that there are long bubbling sounds over both lungs, and that the patient is suffering from extreme breathlessness and an enlarged heart.

The torture of forcible feeding is still being perpetrated upon Miss Phyllis Brady and Miss Kitty Marian.

HORSE-WHIPPED.

Dr. Devon, one of the Prison Commissioners of Scotland, wrote against forcible feeding when he was in a subordinate position, but now that he has been promoted he has helped to practise it upon Miss Moorhead.

On Monday, March 16th, Dr. Devon was stepping out of his motor car to visit Duke Street Prison, Miss Lambie, of Edinburgh, struck him several times with a horsewhip.

MARY RICHARDSON AND THE "VENUS."

MISS MARY RICHARDSON, who, on Tuesday, March 3rd, smashed the famous Rokeby "Venus" in the National Gallery, the value of which is supposed to be £45,000, has been scarcely out of prison since 7th July last, when she was first arrested in Bow. It will be remembered that when the police came to Bromley Public Hall, to arrest Miss Sylvia Pankhurst on a warrant issued under the musty old Act of Edward III., because she had urged the people to go to Downing Street, Miss Richardson was one of those who fought to protect her, and was taken into custody. As soon as the police had dragged Miss Richardson into Bow Police Station she smashed a window in the charge room. On being sentenced she at once adopted the hunger strike, and was ultimately released under the Cat and Mouse Act, against which she put up a most courageously strenuous fight. Miss Richardson has since then been released and rearrested five times, and each time she has been out on license she has made a further militant protest.

During her last imprisonment, from October 3rd to 24th, she was forcibly fed, and was only released when appendicitis developed. She is now again being forcibly fed, and as the appendicitis is still latent her life is likely to be placed in serious danger.

We must work with all our might to get her out, she is right when she says: "The stones cast against me for this picture are each an evidence of artistic as well as moral and political humbug and hypocrisy." Women are worth more than pictures!

WHO CARES FOR THE HOMELESS PEOPLE AT ROSYTH?

On Monday Lord Robert Cecil moved to reduce the Civil Service and Revenue Fund by £100, as a protest against the disgraceful state of affairs that obtain at Rosyth. He stated that in 1912 huts had been put up to accommodate 900 men and some women and children. Since then practically nothing has been done, for there is at present only accommodation for 905 men, 82 women and 138 children in the huts, and 144 men in a model lodging house; yet there are 6,000, 2,400 of whom are women and children, people at Rosyth. He spoke of one two-roomed house in which seven lodgers occupy one room, and a husband, wife and four children, the other. As the men work in two shifts, the beds in many houses are occupied both night and day. Rents are high, and sanitary arrangements disgraceful.

It is certainly time that working women had the vote, in order that they may have the power to force men, who are elected primarily to look after the interests of the workers, to attend to their business.

Whilst neither doing anything to remedy this themselves, or forcing their contractor to do so, the Government issued a notice that anyone building houses in the district would be liable to have them removed without compensation. Dr. Macnamara and Mr. McKinnon Wood replied on behalf of the Government, but gave no adequate promise of reform. The motion was not voted on. Where were the Labour Party?

KING CARSON'S SHUFFLING.

SIR EDWARD CARSON, the militant Ulster man who, if justice were done, should be imprisoned under the Act of Edward III., like Sylvia Pankhurst and others, has been shuffling on the question of Votes for Women. Many months ago he promised that women should have the vote under the Provisional Government for Ulster, which he and his friends have threatened to establish by force, should the Home Rule Bill become law. Now that the Ulstermen's preparations for militancy have brought the Government to their knees with an offer to exclude certain counties of Ulster from the operations of the Bill, the women have naturally demanded that Sir Edward shall insist that the Ulster women shall still have the vote. But this he refuses, saying, just as Prime Ministers do, that his party "is not united on this matter." On Friday, March 6th, a deputation from the Ulster W.S.P.U., including Miss Baker, Miss Anderson, Lady Ernestine Hunt, and Miss Dorothy Evans, appeared in London to interview him. He refused to see the ladies, who thereupon encamped on his doorstep until 12.30 on Monday morning, March 9th, when Sir Edward gave in He told the deputation that he had promised that Ulster women should receive the vote under the Ulster Government, because he regarded this as a mere extension of local government. When he was asked whether, in the event of a separate form of government being offered to Ulster, he would still consider this an extension of local government, and, therefore, one for which women ought to be enfranchised, he found the question awkward, and refused to answer. He had not even an objection to make to the Liberal scheme, that only the men of the Ulster counties shall vote for or against exclusion. and that the women shall have no voice, these women whom he has implored to stand by the Union! Surely the Ulster women will think less of "King" Carson's fine compliments and appeals to their patriotism in the future than they have done in the past. Unserupulous politician that he is, he is anxious to make the women serve the turn of his party, and is then ready to cast them overboard.

THE PAINTING OF BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL.

Early in the morning of Monday, March 16th, the verger found the door of Birmingham Cathedral open, and was "almost paralysed" to find, as he got inside, that "Votes for Women" had been painted, in large white letters, on every available space, including the great Burne-Jones window, the pulpit, the fronts of the organ, the side galleries, and the pillars. The floor and inside walls of the main building were inscribed "Stop Forcible Feeding." The floor of the vestry was lavishly decorated with the words "The clergy must rise on our behalf."

It is said that it will take several hundreds of pounds to repair the damage, and that the Cathedral may have to be closed for some time.

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To the Editor of

THE WOMEN'S DREADNOUGHT.

I was persuaded to advertise in the first issue of "The Dreadnought," and I am glad to say I have several orders, one of them from a reader in the provinces, showing the paper has a large circulation. Please accept thanks, I shall recommend your advertising columns to all my business friends.

Yours, etc.,

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